

House Resolution 1159

By: Representatives Henson of the 87th, Benfield of the 85th, Drenner of the 86th, Manning of the 32nd, Chambers of the 81st, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging and requesting the Department of Community Health, the Department of Human
2 Resources, and the Insurance Department to jointly undertake a study of health insurance
3 coverage for the treatment of obesity, including the compilation of data on the treatment of
4 severe or morbid obesity through bariatric surgery.

5 WHEREAS, obesity is the most significant nutritional disorder affecting health in the
6 industrialized world; and

7 WHEREAS, obesity is a serious medical problem affecting up to one-third of all Americans;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, a 1997 Kaiser Permanente study concluded that there is a significant potential
10 for a reduction in health care expenditures through obesity prevention; and

11 WHEREAS, obesity is known to cause or exacerbate a number of serious disorders,
12 including hypertension, dyslipidemia, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, respiratory
13 dysfunction, gout, and osteoarthritis; and

14 WHEREAS, nearly 80 percent of patients with diabetes mellitus are obese; and

15 WHEREAS, nearly 70 percent of diagnosed cases of cardiovascular disease are related to
16 obesity; and

17 WHEREAS, obesity ranks second only to smoking as a preventable cause of death, with
18 300,000 deaths annually attributable to obesity; and

1 WHEREAS, education, prevention, and proper treatment of obesity can reduce health care
2 costs and improve the quality of life for a significant number of adults and children in
3 Georgia and across the United States.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
5 we do hereby urge and request the Department of Human Resources, Department of
6 Community Health, and the Insurance Department to jointly collect data on individual cases
7 of obesity in order to evaluate whether health insurance coverage for the treatment of obesity
8 should be covered in this state. This analysis shall include a comprehensive study and
9 recommendation as to the advisability of health insurance coverage of medically necessary
10 bariatric surgery for treatment of clinically severe obesity as a cost effective alternative to
11 long-term treatment of the condition. This analysis shall include a comprehensive study of
12 the treatment of cases of severe or morbid obesity in Georgia. The departments are urged
13 and requested to complete this joint study and make recommendations, including necessary
14 legislation, to the General Assembly on or before January 1, 2007, to aid in the prevention
15 and treatment of obesity and ways to decrease the number of cases of obesity in the state.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
17 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the commissioners of the
18 Department of Human Resources, Department of Community Health, and the Insurance
19 Department.